Wisconsin Plan to Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning by 2010

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I. Mission and Purpose

Page 1

Wisconsin is committed to work to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by 2010.

II. Background on childhood lead poisoning problem in Wisconsin

Page 2

Presents a summary of recent history and of current needs. Eliminating lead poisoning will result in great cost savings to the state. Although current resources focused on the problem are inadequate, once the root causes are addressed, the problem can be eliminated.

III. Extent of the lead poisoning problem in Wisconsin

Page 5

- a. Describes the distribution of the disease: by geography, age of child, family income, race, ethnicity and age of housing. Wisconsin has a rate of lead poisoning that exceeds the national average. Low-income children and children from racial and ethnic minority groups carry a disproportionate share of the burden. Families living in old, poorly maintained dwellings are at risk regardless of family income or family heritage.
- b. b. Describes progress to eliminate lead poisoning in Wisconsin. Wisconsin has demonstrated good results at reducing the overall rate of poisoning.

IV. Elimination Planning Committee Process

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A diverse group of experts from medical and housing fields, government agencies and community groups worked for 6 months to develop a plan to result in the elimination of childhood lead poisoning in WI.

V. Strategic Work Plan

Page 18

A. Education Page 18

1. Home visits to families with young children and child care providers

Educate parents and care providers in their homes about lead hazards so they
can act to protect children.

2. General public

Educate the general public about childhood lead poisoning to raise awareness of the need and the methods to protect children from lead.

3. Policy makers and legislators

Educate legislators and decision makers of the impact of lead poisoning, the cost of not addressing the problem, and what needs to be done to address the problem.

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V. Strategic Work Plan (continued)

A. Education (continued)

4. Property owners and construction trades contractors

Develop opportunities for owners to maintain older housing and for workers who disturb lead paint to work safely.

B. Correct lead hazards in housing

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1. Identify and evaluate risk factors associated with lead poisoning

Evaluate and analyze risk factors to strategically use limited resources for the greatest positive results.

2. Evaluate and control lead hazards in pre-1950 housing

Focus resources on the most prominent risk factors, such as pre-1950 housing.

3. Enforcement

Strengthen enforcement so owners repair identified lead hazards in buildings.

4. Incentives

Provide strategic incentives to encourage owners to prevent lead hazards.

C. Targeting high risk populations for blood lead testing

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1. Establish policies to improve age appropriate blood lead testing

Multiple strategies are needed to assure that public funds are efficiently used to identify and evaluate children's lead exposure.

2. Determine physicians screening practices

Identify current practices and perceived barriers between families and health care providers that prevent physicians from providing appropriate blood lead tests for children.

3. Educate health care providers about lead screening

Wisconsin needs increased physician awareness of Wisconsin blood lead screening recommendations.

4. Enhance data sharing among partners to assure that children who need blood lead tests receive these tests.

Health care providers need convenient access to blood lead test data such as that provided by the Wisconsin immunization registry for immunization records.

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V. Strategic Work Plan (continued)

D. Funding and Resources

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1. Increase proportion of available funding that local communities use for lead hazard control.

For many housing programs, spending priorities are locally determined. If communities know the location of high-risk housing, how readily preventable this disease is, and how housing investments save the tremendous public expense of childhood lead poisoning, they can confidently commit resources for prevention.

2. Increase total funding available for lead hazard control

Wisconsin must identify and seek new and expanded resources to control lead hazards, especially in older dwellings occupied by families with young children.

VI. Lead Poisoning Implementation and Oversight committee

Page 57

WI will convene a diverse committee of experts to work collaboratively to implement and to ensure the success of this plan to Eliminate Lead Poisoning in Wisconsin by 2010.

Appendices Page 59

- 1. Cost Savings from Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning in Wisconsin
- 2. Geographic Information System (GIS) maps of Three Wisconsin High Risk Communities:

Milwaukee, Sheboygan and Racine

- 3. Wisconsin Childhood lead Poisoning Elimination Plan Committee Member Contact Information List
- 4. Letter of Invitation to Committee Members
- 5. Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Elimination Plan Committee Mission, Purpose and Member Responsibilities